

80684.

THE CHALLENGE OF WAR-TIME TO WOMEN

By

Dr. MARY SCHARLIEB

Published by the
National Council of Public Morals
For Great and Greater Britain.

Object: The Regeneration of the Race—Spiritual ·
Moral · Physical.

*President of National Council 1915-16: **
THE LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM.

President of Ladies' Advisory Council:
MRS. MARY SCHARLIEB, M.D., M.S.

Headquarters: 42 GREAT RUSSELL STREET
(opposite British Museum), LONDON, W.C.

Copies of the following pamphlet can be obtained from The Secretary,
the Ladies' Council, as above.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY	
Coll.	wellcome
Coll.	pap
No.	WM 274
	1916
	531C



22501241288

THE CHALLENGE OF WAR-TIME TO WOMEN

By Dr. MARY SCHARLIEB

AT this time of national danger and national awakening a call to patriotism and duty rings out to every man, woman, and child throughout the Empire. It is a call to which thousands of men are responding by active service and by the sacrifice of their lives; it is a call to which everyone of us should respond by earnest endeavour and heroic example. Our country is passing through a great crisis, and there is no woman in England who is not eager to take her share in bearing the heavy burden. Most of us have sent forth husband, son, or brother to fight for King and country, and now we are left to discover in what way we women can contribute towards securing a great and glorious victory.

Unfortunately, many women do not realise the serious danger of want of self-control.

They do not understand that in waste and foolish expenditure, in coarse and vulgar jesting, in intemperance and impurity are to be found deadly foes lying in wait to destroy our national life. If the women of the country understood that not only absolute intoxication, but also a far less degree of intemperance suffices to blunt acuteness of intellect, keenness of vision, and steadiness of arm, they would be extremely careful that no foolish "treating" and no bad example of their own should injure the character and impair the efficiency of men.

Again, they do not realise that by want of self-restraint and undue eagerness for the society of men they break down the safeguards of virtue and open the path to sin and shame. There is no intention of wrongdoing, no love of sin, but there is an ignorance of the nature of sin and a reckless disregard of the consequences of folly that threaten to ruin the lives of many and to cloud the future of the nation.

This war, awful as it is, and punishment as it is, has been permitted by an all-wise and all-loving Father. We have justly offended God by our luxury, our mad pursuit of pleasure, our class hatreds, and our want of religion. As a nation we have refused to

retain God in all our thoughts, we have ceased to honour and to love Him, and with our disregard of our duty to Him has come a disregard of our duty to man and a want of love to each other. God in His mercy has permitted our present loss and sorrow. He has changed a frivolous people into a mourning nation, and this He has done to call us to repentance, to recall us to His love, and to rekindle in our hearts the flame of love towards each other. High and low, rich and poor, our men are working, fighting and dying together. In their cheerless bivouacs and in their water-sodden trenches they are learning mutual respect and admiration. They are discovering each other's devotion to duty and the nobility of their common aim.

Surely when the war is over and some, at least, of our men return, they will return to a better life, to higher standards, and to a steadier devotion to duty. This, we hope, will be the result of the national purging and chastening, but in order that their sacrifices shall secure their effect the women of the country must join with the men in the endeavour to obtain this result. How shall we do this?

Let us resolve that with the help of God we will take our share in this national regeneration. We will do all in our power to promote the honour of God and the welfare of our people.

We will keep holy the Sabbath Day. It shall be no longer wasted nor misused, but it shall be a time of holy rest and gladness for us and for our children.

We will put the Bible back into its old position as the chart of our life's voyage, and we will try to judge our thoughts and our actions by its standards.

We will try to keep our bodies in soberness, temperance, and chastity. We will remember that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost, given to us that we may through them serve God and help man. Therefore, we will keep our bodies pure and sweet and clean, and use them with reverence. Therefore, we shall carefully avoid all over-indulgence and all wrong use of these sacred bodies, and we shall never give way to any unworthy appetite.

We will remember that in the Christian community we are called not only to "fear God," but also to "love the brotherhood" and to "honour the King." This remembrance will

make us good citizens, willing to bear each one her share of the burdens and responsibilities of Empire, and it will make us good daughters, wives and mothers eager to help those who look to us for comfort, love and for guidance.

We do not know how long the war may last, but it will certainly not last too long for us to do all that we want to do in order that we may be ready to take our share in the national regeneration that we desire. We now have the one chance not only in our lives, but the one chance in the life of the nation. If we fail now we fail altogether. If the opportunity of national regeneration is missed now it will never return. May God open our eyes to see, may He strengthen our hands to grasp, and may He give us endurance to secure this wonderful gift.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

A Special Leaflet for Girls.

Can be obtained on application to The Secretary,
The Ladies' Council of the N.C.P.M.,

42 GREAT RUSSELL ST., LONDON, W.C.

